

Message Text

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21

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 NEA-09

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 DPW-01

OES-03 /104 W

----- 122419

R 030813Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2085

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 0837

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, WMO, SN, UN

SUBJ: SINGAPORE POSITION ON PRG AT WMO CONFERENCE

REF: A. STATE 041918; B. SINGAPORE 0429

1. SUMMARY. GOS HAS NOT YET DECIDED HOW IT WILL VOTE ON PRG OBSERVER ISSUE AT WMO CONFERENCE, AND APPEARS TO BE BACKTRACKING ON EARLIER NEAR COMMITMENTS MADE IN JANUARY TO AMBASSADOR AND GVN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE. END SUMMARY.

2. REF B REPORTED FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM TOLD AMBASSADOR JANUARY 27 THAT HE HAD RECOMMENDED TO CABINET THAT GOS VOTE AGAINST PRG OBSERVER STATUS AT WMO CONFERENCE AND THAT GOS WOULD EITHER VOTE AGAINST OR ABSTAIN. HE SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD AMBASSADOR IN SAME CONVERSATION AND LATER VISITING GVN REP LE QUAN GIANG THAT GOS WOULD VOTE AGAINST PRG AT WMO CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, TWO DAYS LATER MFA
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OFFICIAL REMINDED DCM THAT FOREIGN MINISTER'S POSITION SUBJECT TO

CABINET APPROVAL.

3. ON MARCH 1, MFA OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, DESKER, INFORMED DCM THAT CABINET HAD NOT YET REACHED FINAL DECISION ON THIS ISSUE. HE SAID QUESTION HAD BEEN REFERRED BACK TO MFA FOR FURTHER STUDY SINCE "ANOTHER MINISTRY" HAD RAISED QUESTION WHETHER PRG MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO CONTRIBUTE TECHNICAL INFORMATION TO WMO. WHEN DCM STRONGLY QUESTIONED PRG'S CAPACITY TO DO THIS, DESKER APPEARED TO AGREE BUT SAID MFA WOULD HAVE TO LOOK INTO MATTER FURTHER.

4. GOS POSITION FURTHER COMPLICATED BY RESPONSE GIVEN BY DEPUTY SECRETARY OF MFA, TAN BOON SENG, TO INQUIRY BY GVN CHARGE TO EFFECT THAT GOS HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER IT WOULD ATTEND WMO CONFERENCE. ON OTHER HAND, DESKER TOLD DCM THAT ALTHOUGH CABINET HAD NOT YET APPROVED GOS ATTENDANCE, IN ALL PROBABILITY GOS WOULD ATTEND THE MEETING.

5. TO CONFUSE MATTERS FURTHER, PERMSEC BOGAARS AT SOCIAL FUNCTION FEBRUARY 28 TOLD AMBASSADOR, POSSIBLY IN JEST, THAT BEST WAY FOR GOS TO SOLVE PROBLEM OF PRG OBSERVER STATUS AT WMO CONFERENCE WOULD BE TO TEAR UP THE POSTAL BALLOT AND DROP IT IN THE WASTE BASKET.

6. COMMENT: DESPITE CONFUSION AND INCONSISTENCIES REPORTED ABOVE, IT SEEMS QUITE CLEAR THAT GOS HAS NOT YET DECIDED WHAT IT WILL DO ABOUT THE PRG ISSUE AT THE WMO CONFERENCE. FURTHERMORE, GOS APPEARS TO BE BACKTRACKING ON NEAR COMMITMENTS MADE BY FOREIGN MINISTER RAJARATNAM IN LATE JANUARY TO AMBASSADOR AND GVN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE, LE QUAN GIANG. CRONK

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